

# 2020 Environmental Education report to the Board

September 14, 2020

## Programming:

- 700 Programs, Outdoor Experiences, service learning, Co-Sponsored in FY20
  - 18,748 Contacts
  - Presented to two new ISU groups/class (American Indian Studies and Iowa Women in Natural Resources Club) creating new connections <sup>1</sup>
- virtual and self-lead activities during the March 16 to August 15 no face-to-face program restriction
  - Self-lead hikes in multiple county parks <sup>6</sup>
    - 3 treasure hunts
    - 6 different word scramble hikes
    - 3 story walks (books)
  - Bi-weekly “what’s blooming in the prairie” emails to registered recipients
  - Facebook live snake program
  - Facebook videos
  - Zoom Bird Bingo program
- New programming for FY 21 <sup>2</sup>
  - The environmental education staff have been working hard to create environmental education programs and activities to offer during this pandemic. We have created a selection of virtual classroom programs, online videos and virtual outdoor experiences with supplements, and outdoor experiences at a park that can be conducted with minimal shared manipulatives and appropriate social distancing.
    - **5 Virtual classroom programs and 9 in-person outdoor experiences** for classrooms can be found at <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1124/School-Programming>. Fees are assessed for these programs and outdoor experiences. Two options are offered, to be decided in advance by each school attendance center: [Environmental Education Fee Form \(PDF\)](#)
    - **22 Recorded parts of some in-class programs and outdoor experiences** to be used by anyone as learning resources can be found at <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1463/Online-Learning-Resources>
  - 23 outdoor public programs scheduled for September and October. Most of these are on a weekday to provide options for at home learners.
    - Discovery Hikes
    - GPS programs
    - Monarch tagging and insect collecting
    - Community Campfire
    - Wild Women of the Woods (full day of programs)
  - 6 outdoor experiences scheduled for civic groups and Homeschool groups

## Partners:

- Raised \$22,399.89 for Dakins Lake Cabin

- Renewable Energy Group first business member<sup>3,4</sup>
- funds raised in FY21 for Osheim Property

#### **Water Testing:**

- Testing sites identified for staff and volunteers
- Volunteer recruitment flier created<sup>5</sup>
- 17 kits put together
  - Still waiting on the phosphate kit
- Will launch program when we receive phosphate kits

#### **Other:**

- Lobby and Multi-purpose room display redesign
- 2 staff biked the full length of the HOINT for an Immersion Day to plan for future bike programming
- Compost bin installed at Conservation Center and compost program for field trips created
- Dial and Discover (OnCell) for FY20
  - 15 stops
  - 498 pageviews by 290 unique visitors
  - 3 pages viewed per visit for an average time of 47 sec.
- [Chronolog.io](https://chronolog.io) photo stops installed May 15<sup>6</sup>
  - McFarland Park timber stand Improvement area - 35 photos submitted
  - TELC at the ford - 84 photos submitted
  - Hickory Grove Lake on the island - 20 photos submitted

#### **Footnotes: Select Strategic Plan Correlations**

1. Community Engagement: Outcomes and Strategies 3 – Engage the ISU community more deeply
2. Community Engagement: Outcomes and Strategies 1- Continue to communicate in multiple ways to engage and educate the public
3. Partnerships: Outcomes and Strategies 2b. – Enhance partnerships with business, corporate groups, and other government entities
4. Partnerships: Outcomes and Strategies 2c. – Secure more funding through partnerships
5. Stewardship of Natural Resources: Outcomes and Strategies 2. – Engage volunteers in water quality assessment and improvement projects
6. Community Engagement: Outcomes and Strategies 1- Continue to integrate more SCC parks and properties into programming